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No. 46

Thomas Savage.

An Account of the late Action
of the New-Englanders, ...
at Canada.

London, 1691

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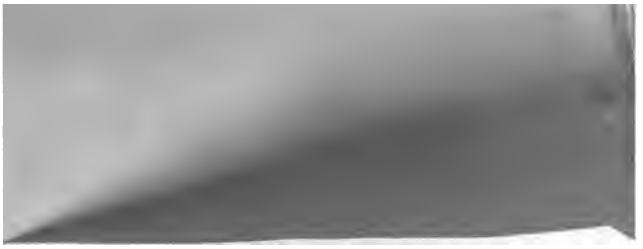

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AN ACCOUNT OF THE LATE ACTION OF THE New-Englanders,

Under the Command of

Sir *WILLIAM PHIPS*,

Againſt the

FRENCH AT CANADA.

Sent in a

Letter from Major *Thomas Savage* of *Boſton* in *New-England*, (who was preſent at the Action) to his Brother Mr. *Perez Savage* in *London*.

Together with the Articles of War compoſed and agreed upon for that purpoſe.

Licenſed April 13. 1691.

London, Printed for *Thomas Jones* at the *White Horſe* without *Temple-Bar*, 1691.

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Loving Brother, *Boſton, Feb.* 2. 169$\frac{0}{1}$.

AS for News, here is very little, only about our Defeatment at *Canada*; and leaſt ſome ill Tongues ſhould abuſe any with you, this will give you a brief Narrative of it. We went from *Boſton* Thirty two Ships, and other Veſſels, with about 2000 Men, with four Months Proviſion, and Ammunition, little enough, but had not One Man for a Pilot. When we came to the River, (which we had a hundred Leagues to go up, before we came into the River, which was the occaſion of our having a long Paſſage, but at length we got up to it;) a Council was call'd, to think what was beſt to be done. It was agreed, That the Soldiers ſhould be put aſhore upon a Beach about two Miles from the Town, and to get as near the Town as we could, and to Encamp that night, for there was a River between us and the Town, that was Knee deep at low Water, which we were to go over to the Town: and in the night they were to ſend in ſome ſmall Veſſels that had Guns, with Ammunition and Proviſion for us, and to bring our Field-pieces aſhore with them, to ſecure our Paſſage over the River; and when we were over the River, then the four great Ships ſhould fall upon the Town to Batter it. Accordingly we landed, I being the firſt Field-Officer aſhore. We landed about 1200 Men, and as ſoon as we came aſhore, at the ſide of the Beach, was a *Swamp, where lay an Ambuſcade of about 600 French, who gall'd us at our landing, but our Men running very briskly on them, beat up their Ambuſcade, and followed them a great way; all our Men in their landing, waded ſome up to their middle, none

*A Bog overgrown with Wood.

leſs than to their Knees. By that we had Rallied the Sun was near ſet; ſo we marched about half a Mile from the River, and ſo encamped. Our Men had ſpent the greateſt part of our Ammunition in this Skirmiſh, having taken aſhore with them about three quarters of a Pound of Powder a Man, and about fifteen or eighteen Shot, and but two Biskets a Man; and the reaſon why they carried no more was, becauſe the ſmall Veſſels were to carry it into the River that night. We had in this Skirmiſh about five Men killed outright, and about twenty Men wounded. About midnight they ſent us aſhore ſix Field-pieces, about 800 Pound apiece, which we could not tell what to do with, it being a Marſhy place, and ſeveral ſmall Gullies to go over. We ſent aboard for Ammunition and Proviſion, but they ſent us half a Barrel of Powder, which what that was you may judge, amongſt near 1200 Men, and ſent no Proviſion. We were no ſooner ingaged at our coming aſhore, but contrary to Orders, thoſe four Ships of War, as they called them, wayed their Anchors, and fell to Battering the Town*, and there ſpent the greateſt part of their Ammunition by that time they got back: the Admiral being, as they ſay, forced to leave their beſt Cable and Anchor behind him and get back again. We met with ſeveral Skirmiſhes from the Enemy while we were aſhore, but we received little Hurt. We had ſome that we took informed us, that if we had come but four days ſooner, they had not above 600 Men in Town, but being ſo long in the River before we got up, they had notice of us, and had ſent for all their Strength thither, ſo that there was now in the Town 3000 Men, and eight hundred that were near us in Swamps and Woods, to keep us continually alarmed. But ſending aboard often to ſee to get ſome Victuals, for we could meet with little aſhore, the Enemy having drove their Cattle into the Woods, they at length ſent us word that they had no more Ammunition

* at Random.

to

to ſpare, but ſent us about a Bisket Cake a Man, and ordered that we ſhould come aboard again, (for they underſtood that was not a good place to ſet upon the Town, being a very ſtrong place, Walled all round, and a Battery of Guns at our coming over the River,) and did ſend fifty Seamen to look after the ſix Field-pieces. At night we began to go on board, and I with my Regiment was to go aboard firſt, by the Lieutenant General's Order, becauſe we were aſhore firſt. We did ſo, and got well aboard, and by twelve of the Clock were all aboard. But how it came to paſs I know not, but ſome ſay it was the Lieutenant General's Fault, but I rather think the Seamens, that was to look after the Guns; but there was five of the Field-pieces left on ſhore. And then when all was on board, becauſe Proviſions was Scarce, we thought good to make the beſt of our way back again. So that we are all well arrived, only two Veſſels caſt away, nine of the Men loſt, one Ship burnt; but ſaved all the Men, and four Veſſels not yet come in, who we believe are beat off the Coaſt *. You will without doubt hear many Reflections upon Lieutenant General *Walley*: but he is not guilty of what they charge him with; but there are ſome, who to make themſelves Faultleſs, lay the Fault upon him, which might be eaſily evinced to a Rational Man. We killed of the French at our coming aſhore above Thirty, as ſome who have made a Computation of what they ſaw in ſeveral places lay dead, ſay. We lay not far from the ſhore, and the General ſent his Boat aſhore * to Treat about Change of Priſoners, which we did, and changed 17 we had taken *, for 17 Engliſh Priſoners that had been with them a pretty while. Our Priſoners informed us of the Truth of the Quantity of Men in the Town, as is above; and that if we had gone over the River, we had certainly been deſtroyed; So that I look there was a Providence of God in it; yet if they had ſent Ammunition and Proviſion we had certainly been with them. *Thomas Savage.*

* Not arrived 5 or 6 Weeks after the Fleet came to *Boſton*.

* With an Old French Woman.

* Amongſt who was Mr. *Petit* Old Experienc Officer, lately turned Prieſt, a has been form ly in *Boſton*, a well acquaint with the ſtate *New-England*.

At a Council of War held on Board their Majeſties Ship * Six-Friends, *Riding at Anchor in* Canada-River, *September* 23d. 1690.

* Their Majeſties have no ſuch Ship in *New-England*, but this Ship belongs to Merchants of *Barbadoes*.

Ordered,

1. THAT the Laws and Ordinances of War paſſed by the General Court of the Maſſachuſets, for the better Regulating their Forces; Together with all ſuch additional Laws and Orders as ſhall now be made and ordained by this Council at their preſent Seſſion; be forthwith Read and Publiſhed at the Head of each Regiment or Company of Souldiers, and on Board each and every Ship and Veſſel in their Majeſties Service for this preſent Expedition to *Canada*, *&c.* And that the ſame be put in Execution according to the true intent and meaning thereof.

2. That each and every of the aforeſaid Laws and Ordinances of War, and all ſuch other as ſhall from time to time be made and ordain'd by the Council of War, ſhall be Declared and Publiſhed by beat of Drum or ſound of Trumpet, or otherwiſe at Diſcretion, at the Head of each Regiment or Company of Souldiers, and on Board each and every Ship and Veſſel in their Majeſties Fleet; and that they be ſo Read and Publiſhed once a Fortnight, or oftner, that ſo none may pretend to be ignorant thereof.

3. That whatſoever Perſon that is Engaged in this preſent Service, ſhall by Words or otherwiſe, Reproach, Slight, or ſhow Diſreſpect to any of his Superiour Officers, ſhall be Puniſhed as the Council of War ſhall ſee cauſe; reſpect being had unto the Circumſtances of Place, Office, Perſon Injuring, and Injured; as alſo the Evil tendency thereof.

4. That

4. That no Commander or other Perſon, preſume to ſend or ſuffer any Boat whatſoever to be ſent to the Shoar, or any Ship or Veſſel to Land any Men after the firſt Anchoring of the Fleet, otherwiſe than as they ſhall receive Orders from the General or Council of War.

5. That whenſoever any men ſhall be ſent on Shoar, ſuitable Officers ſhall be ſent with them, to Command and Order them, which Officers are to be accountable for their Actions and Behaviours; and alſo are required, to attend the Commands and Directions of their Superiour Officers.

6. That it ſhall and may be lawful for any Officer, to ſhoot any Perſon, that ſhall firſt run away from under his Command in time of actual Service, if he cannot be otherwiſe brought to attend his Duty.

7. That if any Regiment, Company of Souldiers, or other Perſon under Command, ſhall refuſe to Advance forward to charge the Enemy, or ſuch other Service as ſhall be orderly and reaſonably required of him or them, eſpecially if through Fear or Cowardiſe, they ſhall refuſe, or ſtay behind, he or they ſhall looſe their Pay, and whole ſhare of Plunder, and be otherwiſe diſgraced, and the Principal Puniſhed according as a Council of War ſhall Determine.

8. That no Perſon whatſoever ſhall give Intelligence, or hold any Correſpondence with the Enemy on pain of Death.

9. That whoſoever ſhall cauſeleſly make an Alarm, or needleſly, or wilfully Fire a Gun in the Night, ſhall be put to Death, or ſuffer ſuch grievous puniſhment as a Council of War ſhall inflict.

10. That no man force himſelf upon a Sentinel, being called unto three times to ſtand, upon the peril of his Life.

11. That if any Souldier or other Perſon, be found Drunk on Duty, or in time of actual Service, he ſhall ſuffer Death,

Death, or ſuch other grievous puniſhment as the Council of War ſhall determine; Conſideration being had unto the ill Conſequences that hath or might have been by reaſon thereof.

12. That all Officers of what degree ſoever, take ſpecial Care, that no Souldier or other Perſon under his Command, drink any *Brandy*, *Wine*, or other *Strong-Liquor*, at any time to Exceſs, eſpecially in time of Service, and whilſt we are in Danger from the Enemy: They are alſo duly to ſet and ſecure in order to Try all ſuch as ſhall offend.

13. That preſent Quarter be given to thoſe of the Enemy that ſhall ask it, according to the Laws of Arms and Nations, if it can be done without hazard.

14. That all Perſons whatſoever, carry themſelves as Men and Chriſtians towards all Priſoners, eſpecially ſuch as have been men of Place, Aged Perſons, Women, and Children; and that they preſume not to offer any Rudeneſs or Uncivility to any Woman or other Perſon, on pain of ſuch puniſhment as the Council of War ſhall order, according to the Circumſtances thereof.

15. That whatſoever Souldier or others, that ſhall Fight or Quarrel one with the other in time of Service, ſhall loſe a Months pay, and be otherwiſe puniſhed at the Diſcretion of the Council of War; and whatſoever ſhall ſo Fight or Quarrel at other times, ſhall be puniſhed at the Diſcretion of the Commiſſion-Officers of that Company.

16. That no man ſhall Pawn or Exchange his Arms, either in Field or elſewhere, without leave of his Captain, or diſpoſe of any Arms of others; or any *Ammunition*, *Hatchets*, *Spades*, *Shovels*, or other Stores or Inſtruments of War, on ſuch Penalties and Puniſhments as a Council of War ſhall order.

17. That whoſoever without Conſent as aforeſaid, ſhall Buy, Receive, Exchange, or take to Pawn, any Arms, Ammunition, or Inſtruments of War, ſhall return ſuch Arms,

Arms, Ammunition, and Inſtruments without Satisfaction, or forfeit twice the value thereof, and ſuffer ſuch other puniſhment as a Council of War ſhall appoint.

18. That no man without Conſent as aforeſaid, being under Command, preſume to Fire his Gun without Order, on pain of ſuch puniſhment as the Captain or Commiſſion-Officers of that Company ſhall appoint; and that no man preſume at any time needleſly to Fire his Gun without Order, on penalty of Two-Shillings Six-Pence, to be deducted out of his Wages or Plunder.

19. That whoſoever ſhall at any time Seize or take any Plunder, of what kind or Nature ſoever from the Enemy, ſhall forthwith give notice thereof to the General, Lieutenant General, or Chief-Officer preſent, with an account thereof, that the ſame may be diſpoſed and ſecured according to further Order. And whoſoever ſhall refuſe or neglect ſo to do, ſhall forfeit his ſhare of Plunder, and make Reſtitution of what they ſhall ſo Conceal, Withhold, or Imbezil, and alſo ſuffer ſuch further puniſhment as a Council of War ſhall determine.

20. That no Perſon whatſoever preſume to Riſle any Ship, Boat, or any other Veſſel, or to break Open, Unlock, Unty, or otherwiſe Undoe, or make Looſe any Cheſt, Trunk, Box, Bale, Bundle, or any other Veſſel wherein Plunder of the Enemy may be, whether on Board, or on Shore, in any Houſe or otherwiſe; but ſhall ſecure the ſame whole and undivided, as the ſame ſhall be found, and bring the ſame to the Chief-Officer then and there preſent, who is to take ſuch further Order therein, as ſhall be neceſſary upon pain of forfeiting his whole ſhare of Plunder, and ſuffering ſuch further puniſhment as a Council of War ſhall Inflict.

21. That no Perſon whatſoever preſume to ſet Fire unto, Burn, Waſte, Deface, or otherwiſe ſpoile any *Fort*, *Church*, *Colledge*, *Houſe*, *Barn*, *Ship*, *Veſſel*, or any other *Goods*,

Proviſions, *Wares*, *Merchandizes*, or *Eſtates* whatſoever, or kill or deſtroy any *Hogs*, *Cattle*, or any other tame Creature belonging to the Enemy, without Order from their Captain. Which Captains are required not to give Order for ſo doing without Neceſſity require, (which Neceſſity is to appear ſuch to the Council of War if queſtioned,) But as they ſhall from time to time receive Directions from the General, Lieutenant General, Major of the Regiment, or Council of War.

22. That no Souldier, Seaman, or other Perſon under Command in this preſent Expedition, preſume to Plunder the Enemy in time of Fight, nor whilſt we are in any danger from the Enemy; nor whilſt they chaſe or purſue the Enemy, nor before they have ſecured themſelves from the Enemy, nor until they have Orders from the Chief-Officers in that preſent Expedition, or at any other time or place then Ordered, or contrary to Articles made with the Enemy, and declared on pain of Death, or ſuch other Penalties and Puniſhment as a Council of War ſhall Inflict.

23. That the Commiſſion-Officers of each Company, do puniſh all Perſons within their ſeveral Companies reſpectively, which after Publication hereof, ſhall be found Guilty of Drunkenneſs, Swearing, Curſeing, and neglect of the Worſhip of God, Petty-Theſts, Quarrelling when not in Service, unneceſſary Firing when under Command without Order, not doing Duty, doing Duty Negligently.

Vera Copia Examined.

Nath. Barnes Sec. Con. Bel.

By

By other Letters from *New-England* are theſe farther Particulars, That the Fleet, for want of Pilots, was nine Weeks getting to *Quebeck*, and that they Landed about 1200 Men, many aboard being Sick of the Small Pox and Feaver: That at the time they Landed, the French had not above five or ſix Hundred Men in the Town; but when they beat up their Ambuſh, and forced the French to retreat towards the Town, had our Men purſued them, they might have entered the Town with them, and made themſelves Maſters thereof; which Miſcarriage is attributed to the Unskilfulneſs, if not Cowardiſe, of their Officers: The Men that were Landed endured great Hardſhips aſhore, it being very Cold Weather, and they had nothing but the Ground for their Lodging, without any Shelter or Covering. Sir *William* kept Firing againſt the Town, or, as ſome write, the Rocks of *Quebeck*, till he had ſpent almoſt all his Ammunition, and then ſlipt his Cable and fell down; and the other Veſſels followed; they Anchored below the Iſland *Orleans*, and were by Streſs of Weather forced out of the River to Sea and diſperſed. Some Veſſels by Sickneſs were very much diſabled, and thoſe that arrived loſt ſome half, and others more, of their Men: In their return one of their Fire-ſhips was burnt by Accident, and Twelve Men loſt; two other Veſſels caſt away, but the Men ſaved; and the laſt Veſſels that ſailed in *February* paſt from *New-England* ſay, that four of the Fleet was not then Arrived, nor any News of them, in which were about three hundred Men, ſuppoſed to be caſt away, having been about three Months miſſing. After the Return of the Veſſels, many Men died of the Diſtemper, which has Infected the Inhabitants, Spreads and proves very Mortal amongſt them.

This

This Expedition has brought the *Colony* of the *Maſſachuſets Bay* above 50000 *l.* in Debt, for Payment whereof the General Court hath laid Grievous Taxes upon the Inhabitants, which they force from thoſe who refuſe to pay. And for the ſatisfying the Clamours of the Soldiers and Sailers, of whom moſt were Preſſed and ſent in this Service. They, upon the return of their Ships from *Canada*, made a Law, Dated at *Boſton* the Tenth of *December* 1690. ordering a Committee of five Perſons, three whereof ſhould be impowered for granting forth Printed Bills (none to be under 5 *s.* nor exceeding the Summ of 5 *l.* in one Bill) by which ſome of the Soldiers and Seamen are paid, and the Colony is thereby engaged to ſatisfie the Value of the ſaid Bills, as the Treaſury ſhall be enabled. But they will not paſs in Trade between Man and Man, nor can theſe poor Soldiers and Seamen get any thing for them to above half their value, they being only uſed to pay Rates with. The Form of which Bills are as herein decyphered.

N°

N° (2161) 10^{s}

THIS Indented Bill of Ten ſhillings, due from the Maſſachuſets Colony to the Poſſeſſor, ſhall be in value equal to Money, and ſhall be accordingly accepted by the Treaſurer and Receivers, ſubordinate to him in all Publick Payments, and for any Stock at any time in the Treaſury Boſton in New-England, December the 10th. 1690. By Order of the General Court.

Penn Townſend
Adam Winthrop } Com^{tee}.
Tim. Thornton

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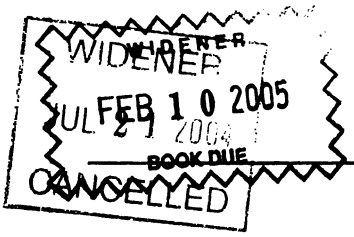
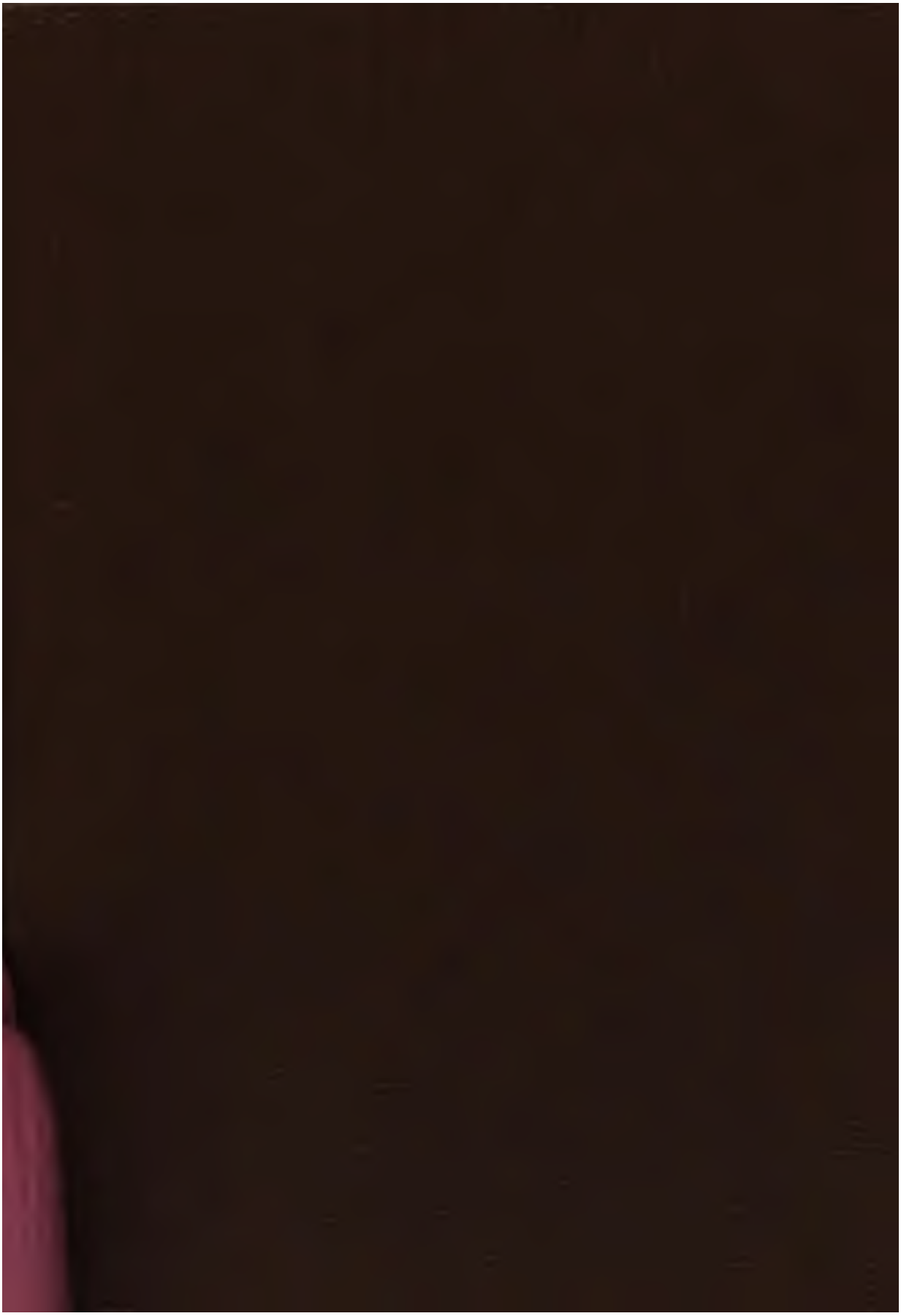
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